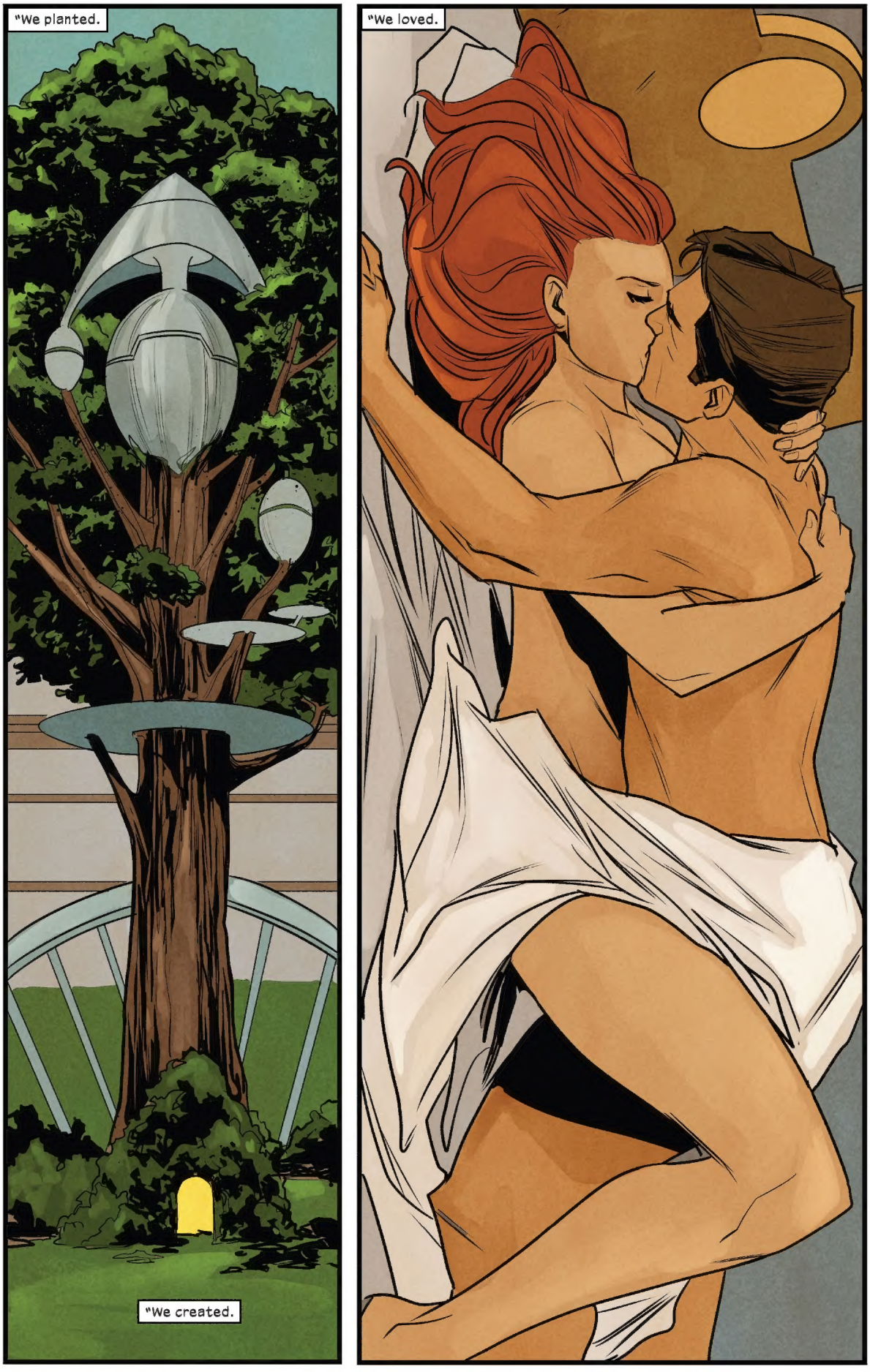
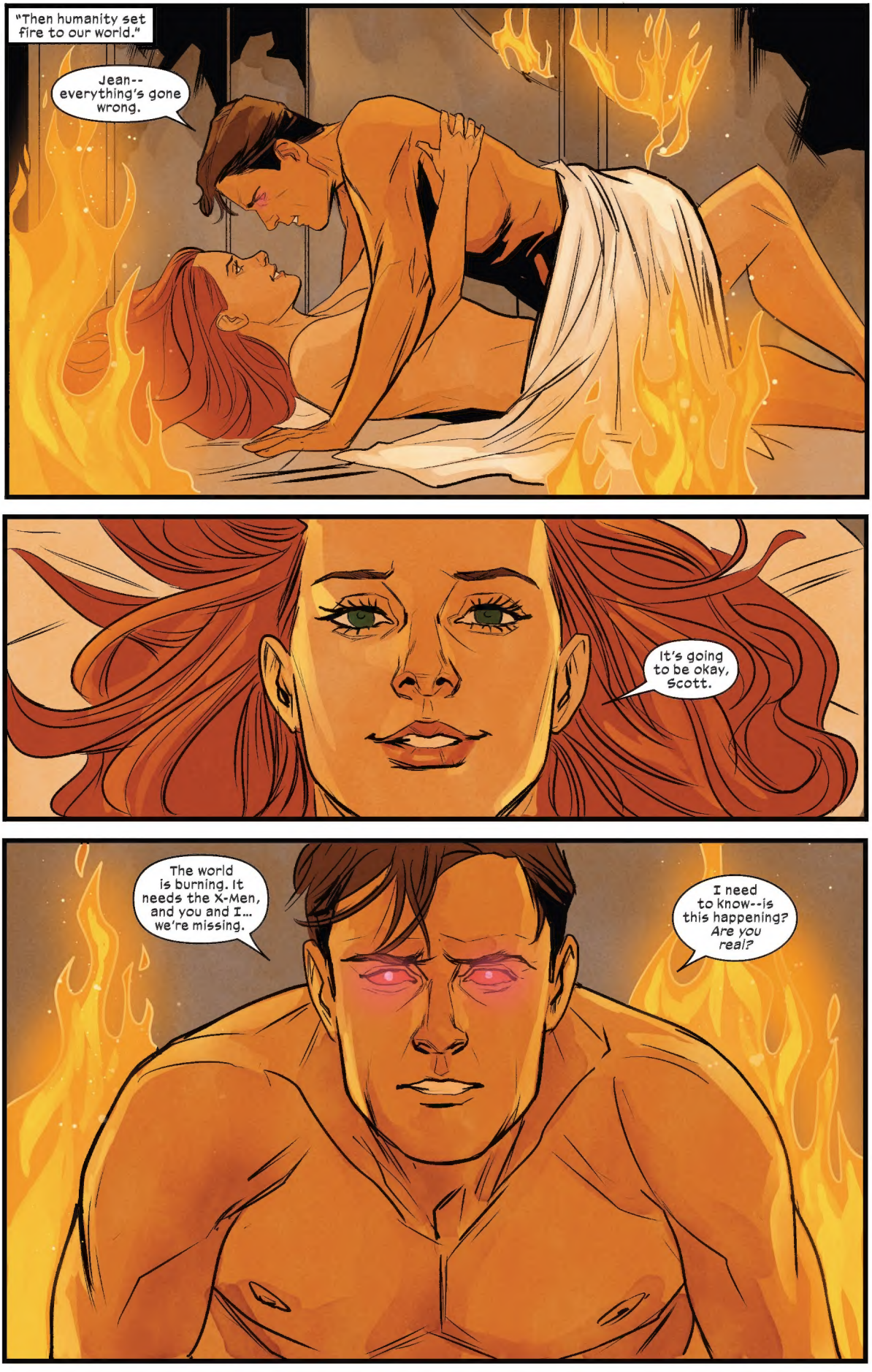
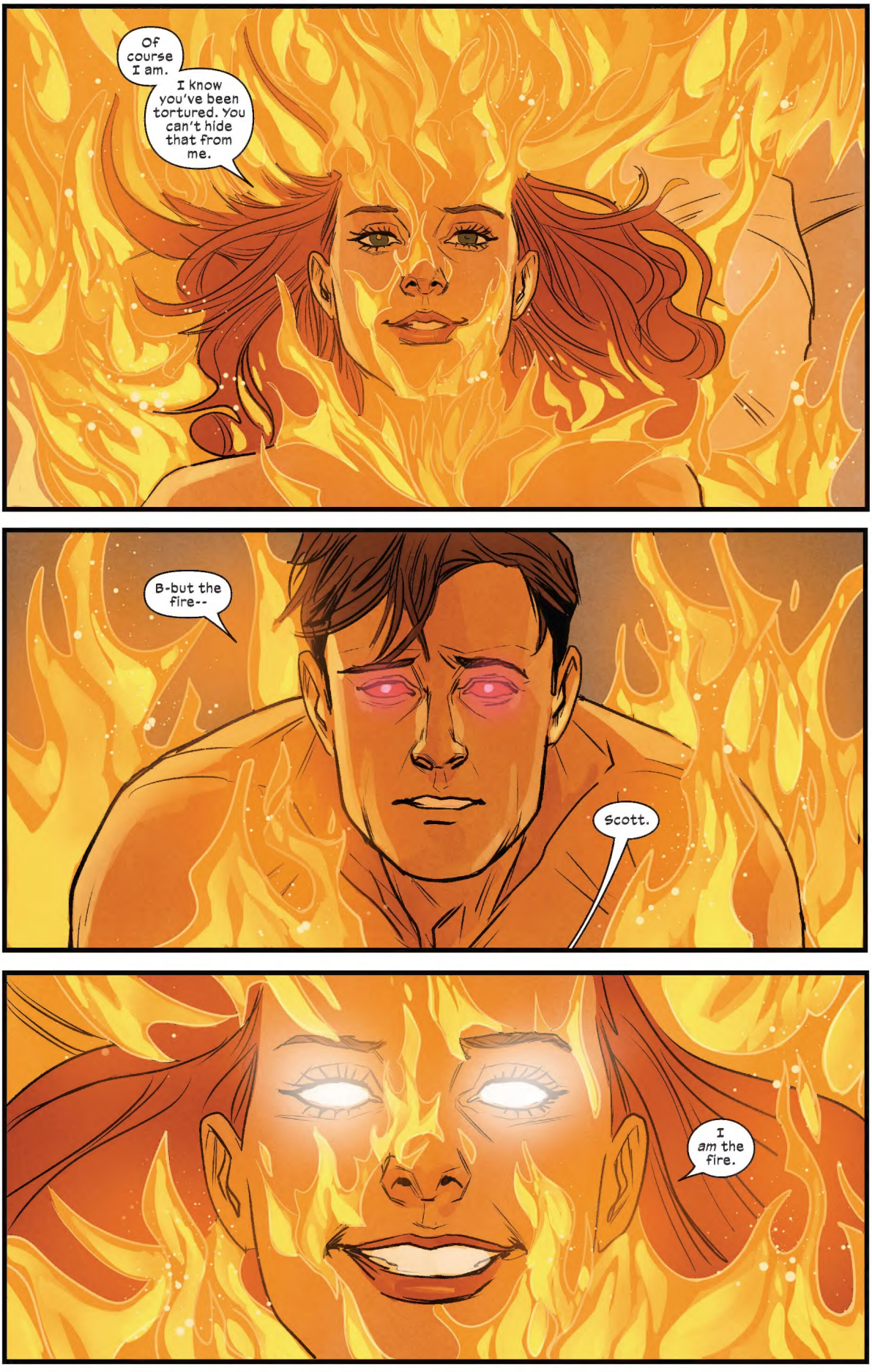
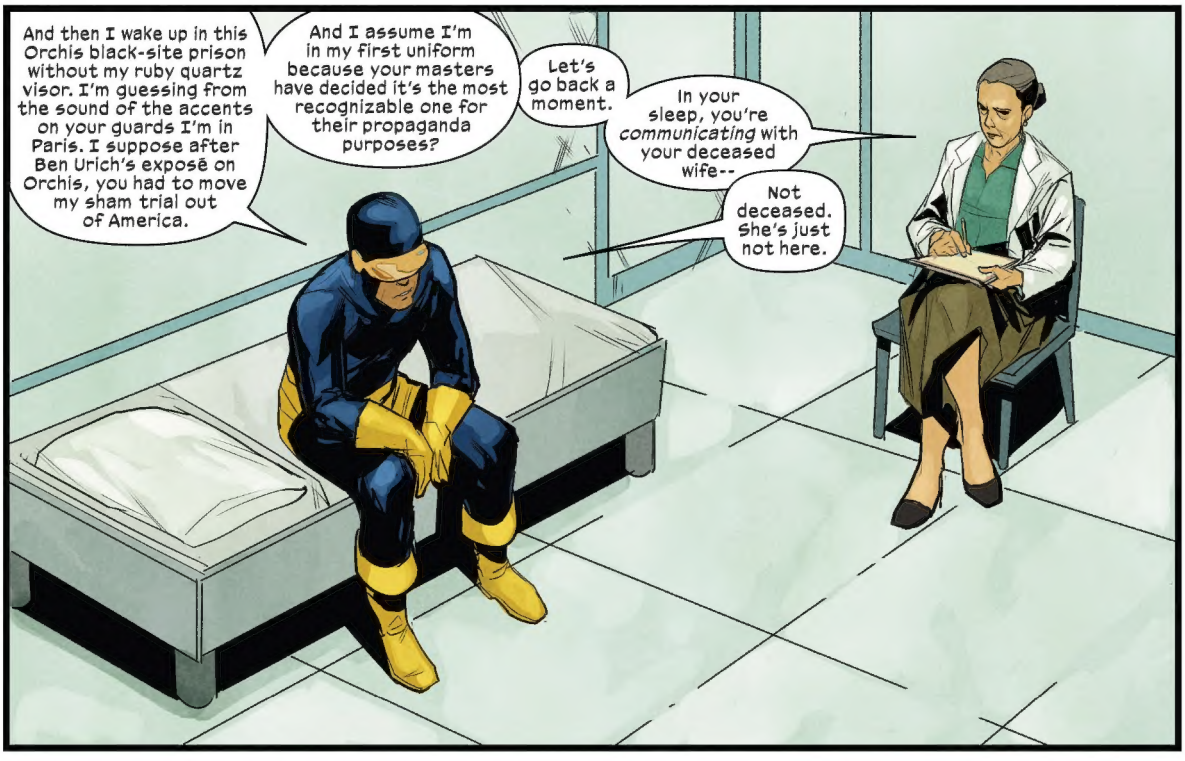
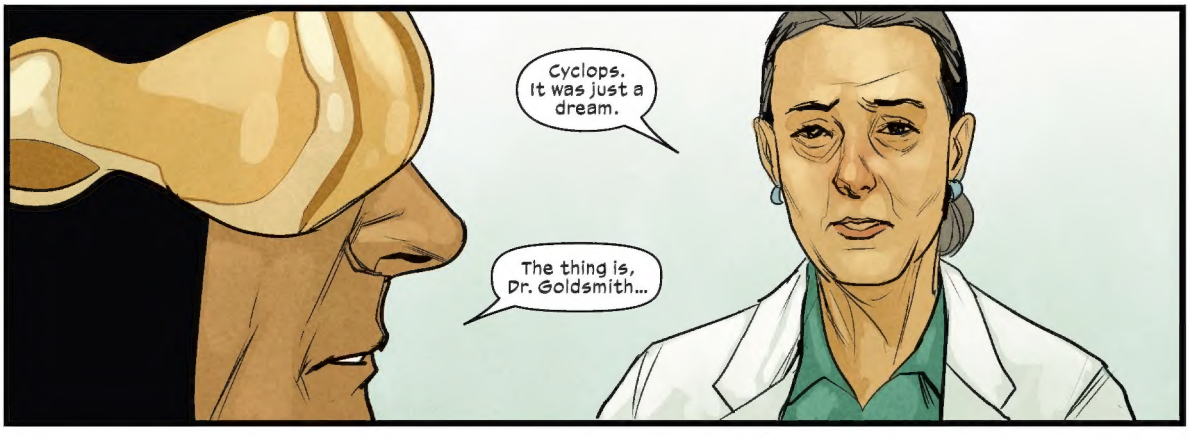
MARVEL
030
FALL OF THE HOUSE OF X
DUGGAN
NOTO
X MEN
JDW + MARTE GRACIA


"We planted.
"We created.
"We loved.


"Then humanity set fire to our world."
Jean--everything's gone wrong.
It's going to be okay, Scott.
The world is burning. It needs the X-Men, and you and I... we're missing.
I need to know--is this happening? *Are you real?*

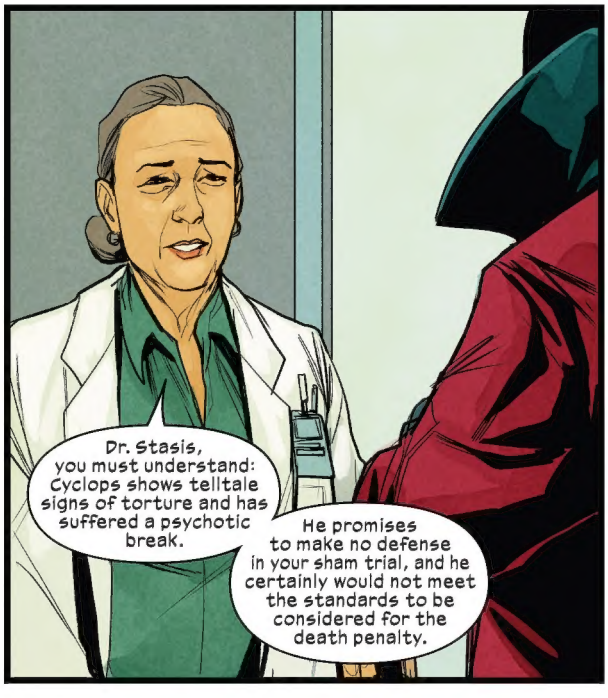

Of course I am.
I know you've been tortured. You can't hide that from me.
B-but the fire--
Scott.
I *am* the fire.


And then I wake up in this Orchis black-site prison without my ruby quartz visor. I'm guessing from the sound of the accents on your guards I'm in Paris. I suppose after Ben Urich's exposé on Orchis, you had to move my sham trial out of America.
And I assume I'm in my first uniform because your masters have decided it's the most recognizable one for their propaganda purposes?
Let's go back a moment.
In your sleep, you're *communicating* with your deceased wife--
Not deceased. She's just not here.


Cyclops. It was just a dream.
The thing is, Dr. Goldsmith...

...it's not a dream if it's real.

The man is--
Mutant. He's a mutant. *Not* a man.


Dr. Stasis, you must understand: Cyclops shows telltale signs of torture and has suffered a psychotic break.
He promises to make no defense in your sham trial, and he certainly would not meet the standards to be considered for the death penalty.

But you won't dare put any of that in your report. Otherwise, the little black-sheep mutie in your family will find themselves on a surprise "camping trip"...

...that will last the rest of its short, pitiful life.
I think Cyclops thinks he's exactly where he wants to be right now.
Good. Let's make him happy, then. Clear him for trial. I have a show to put on in front of the entire human world.

[fall__of]
[_____X]

FALL OF X

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X-MEN

~~THE PRICE OF KEEPING A DREAM ALIVE~~

In the brutal aftermath of Orchis' assault at the Hellfire Gala and ruthless anti-mutant campaign, Synch and Talon have stepped up to lead what remains of the X-Men in order to protect every mutant they can.

Synch and Talon have managed to pull together a network of allies, including Firestar (acting as a double agent embedded in Orchis), Iron Man and several Avengers members. However, even with added resources, the X-Men are stretched thin, and their problems keep mounting: Thousands of mutants remain missing, while those who are still on Earth are scattered and hunted. Cyclops is being held by Orchis and awaits a public trial and potential execution. And to make matters more difficult, the threat of Orchis activating the backdoor kill code embedded in Krakoan medicine has turned everyone saved by the mutant miracle drugs into a walking hostage.

1___[JEAN GREY]
2___[CYCLOPS]
3___[DOCTOR STASIS]
4___[TALON]
5___[SYNCH]
6___[MS. MARVEL]
7___[SPIDER-MAN]
8___[GOLD GOBLIN]
9___[IRON MAN]
10__[FIRESTAR]

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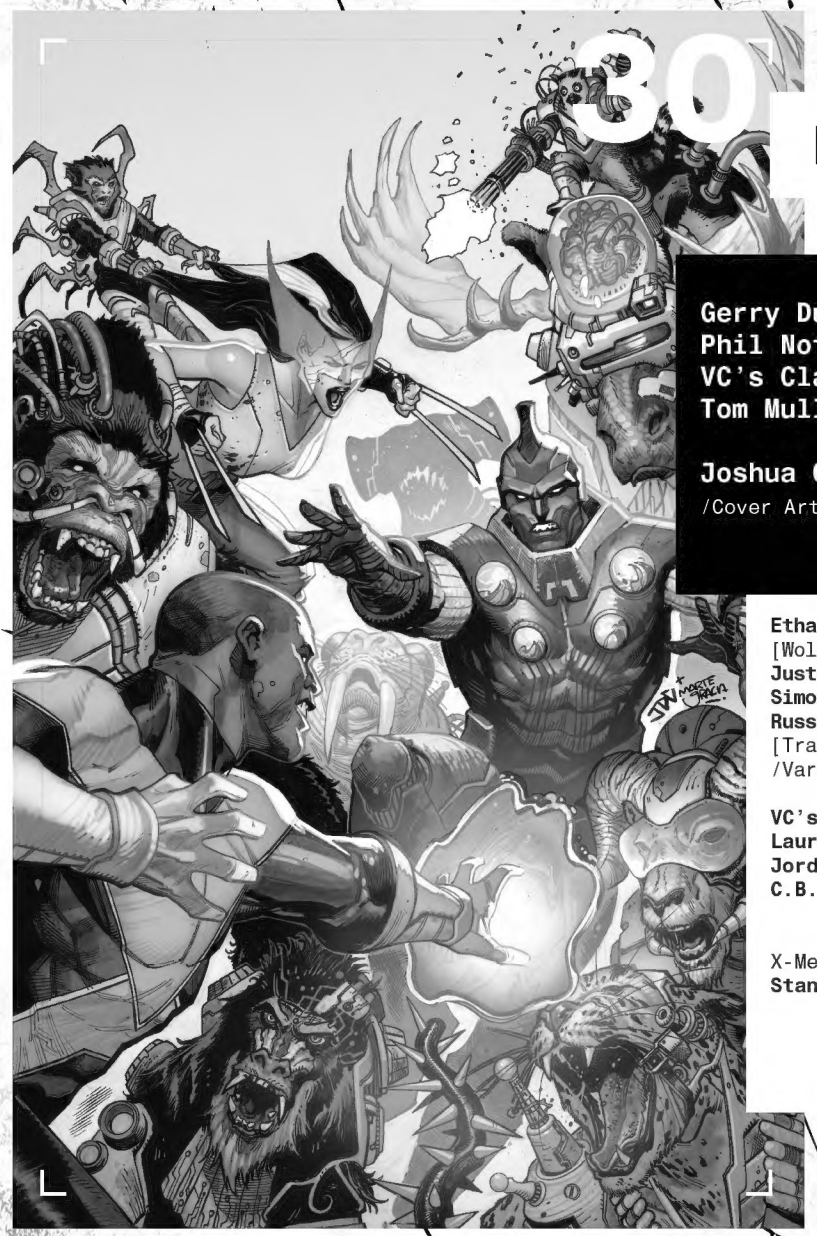

"WHO SAYS ROMANCE IS DEAD?"

Gerry Duggan/Writer
Phil Noto/Artist
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Tom Muller & Jay Bowen/Design

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/Cover Artists

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[Trading Card]
/Variant Cover Artists

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Lauren Amaro/Associate Editor
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C.B. Cebulski/Editor in Chief

X-Men created by
Stan Lee & **Jack Kirby**

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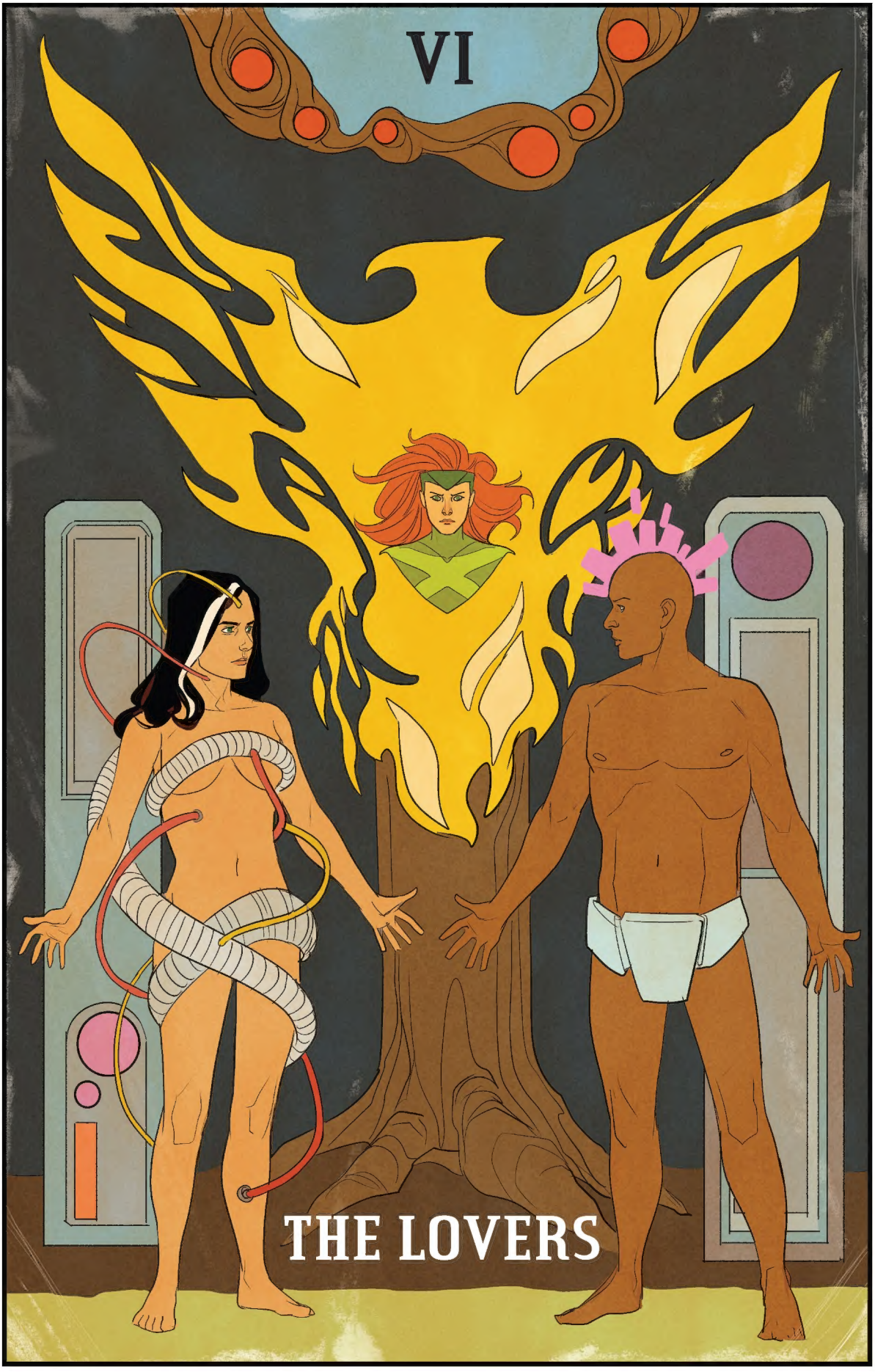

VI
THE LOVERS

The Vault. A closed society experiencing the flow of time at a highly accelerated rate.
Synch, Talon and Darwin were deployed into the Vault on an urgent reconnaissance mission.
Darwin was lost, but Synch and Laura soldiered on. This was two hundred years later for them.
By their third century, love flourished.
After close to half a millennium, they were keeping each other alive--body, mind and soul.

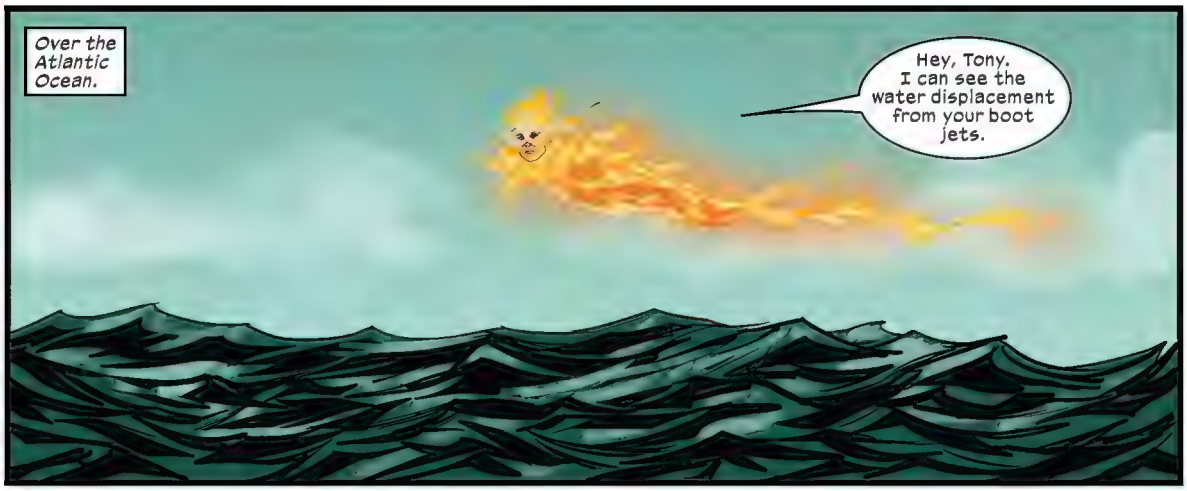
In the present, the duo leads the fugitive X-Men, forced to hide down in the Morlock Tunnels. These were dire days, no doubt, but that is what every day in the Vault was for them.
But they were not alone. Spider-Man, the Gold Goblin and Tony Stark had been pitching in on the mutants' most pressing problem.
I'm uncomfortable with skipping human trials before we put this science into the population.
That's a *first* from Norman Osborn.
I understand the hesitancy, Gold Goblin, but now that we have a way to counteract the kill switch in Orchis' laced drugs, we have to deploy it into everyone as fast as possible.
How do we administer this "patch" to all these hostages, and how do we do it without raising alarms at Orchis?
Can we even launch our counterattack before we fix this mess?
No, Ms. Marvel, we can't. It's going to take a monumental effort worthy of the Manhattan Project, and we only have a few days to accomplish it.
Now, if you'll excuse me, I need to suit up for my regularly scheduled rendezvous with Firestar.

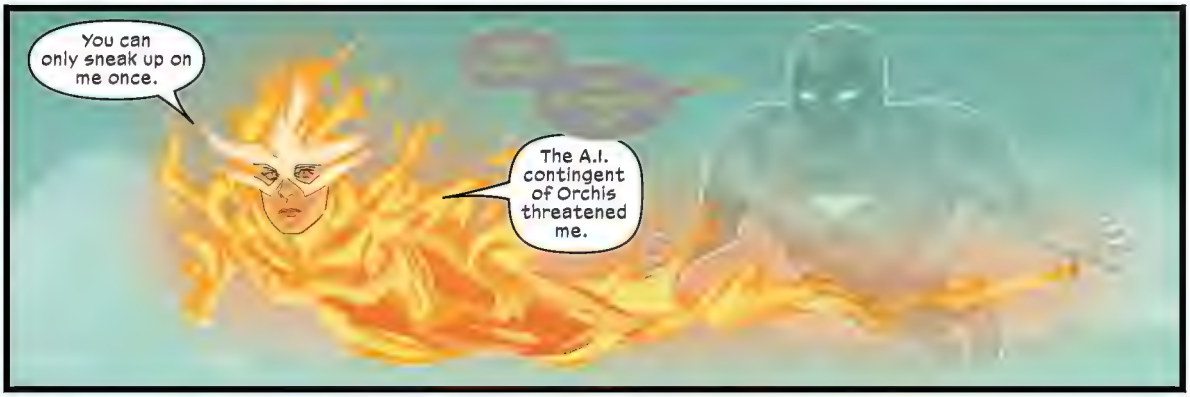
Well, maybe we can get one of our enemies to do it for us?
Don't ask me how I know this, but Sauron wants to turn everyone into dinosaurs--maybe the tech already exists?

Spider-Man, that is--
Dumb, I know. The spider that bit me didn't even have his G.E.D.
No, it's a *brilliant* idea. The X-Men faced the High Evolutionary, and he wanted to give us a gift--a bioweapon that would sterilize all of humanity.
Bummer.

The answer to our problem is on Counter-Earth.
I think that was the year I slept in.

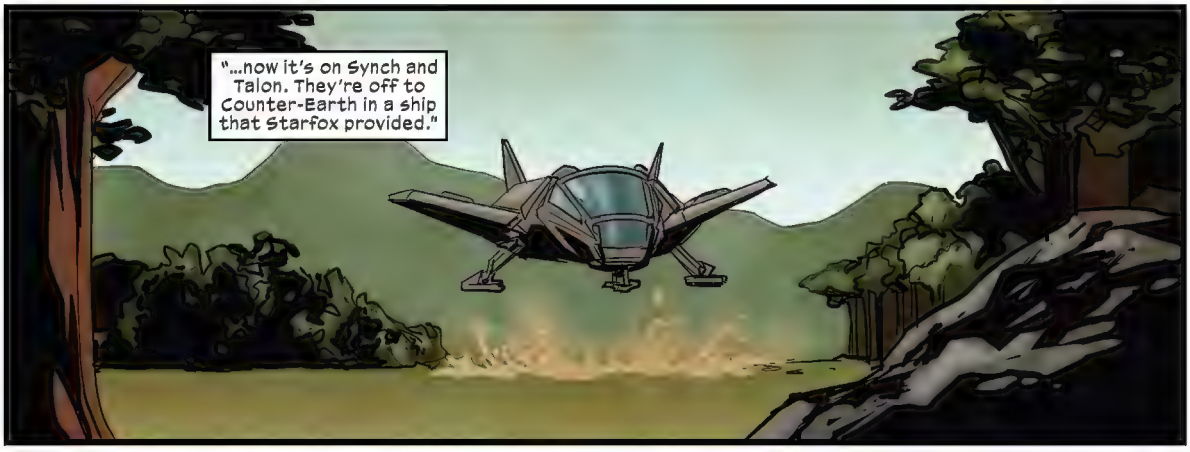
"It was, Talon. I was with your...younger self on the X-Men, and I negotiated an end to hostilities...
"...for a single drop of blood.
"The High Evolutionary is a genocidal maniac..."
...and I hope there won't be blood on my hands over it.
This one is personal for me, so I'm glad we're close to putting this to bed. Good luck on "Counter-Earth," and if you need help after-- you know where to find me.
The unemployment office?
Direct hit, Ms. Marvel... direct hit.
What's the quickest way to Counter-Earth?
I just remembered I have a *ton* of homework.
It's all good, Kamala. Talon and I have this.


Over the Atlantic Ocean.
Hey, Tony. I can see the water displacement from your boot jets.


You can only sneak up on me once.
The A.I. contingent of Orchis threatened me.

I bull@#$% my way out of it. For now.
You've been undercover long enough. It's time to set the trap and then get you *out*.
After you report that my landing force is touching down in the Australian outback, you leave Orchis and never go back.

They have the whole world in a vice. Is this going to work?
It has to, Angelica. Or we're all dead, and whatever's left of humanity will live under Orchis' heel.
What about the hostages on the Krakoan medicines?
We have a solution...

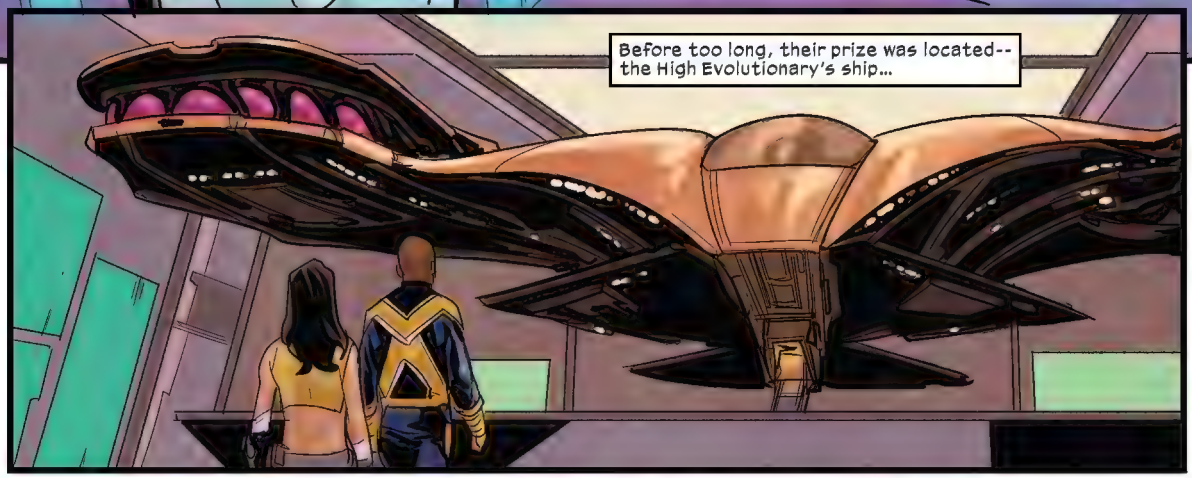

"...now it's on Synch and Talon. They're off to Counter-Earth in a ship that Starfox provided."

I guess it was too much to hope for that we could touch down unnoticed.
The High Evolutionary runs this place like Doom rules Latveria. The trick will be to see if any of them are sick of his rule.

The High Evolutionary had committed genocide many times over on his planet. It left him vulnerable to defections.
The powerful Teslelephant and his friends agreed to take the X-Men to the High Evolutionary's weapons bunker.

These were hard days. But that was nothing new for the lovers.

So, this High Evolutionary used to be a human narcissist?
What gave him away?


Before too long, their prize was located-- the High Evolutionary's ship...

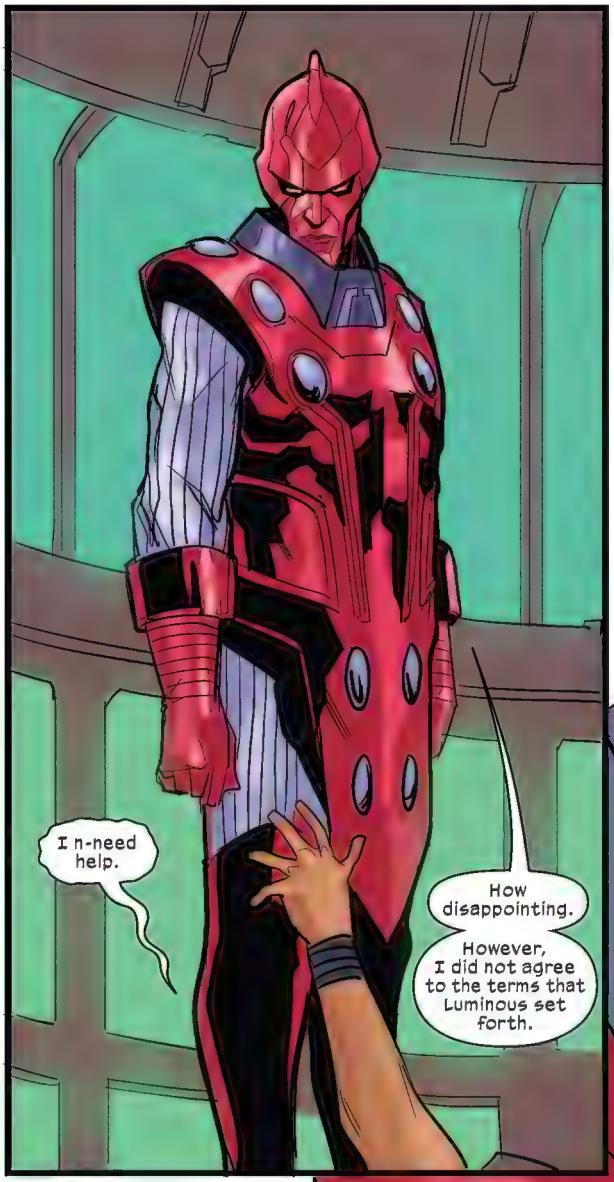
...and on it, his bio-bomb.
Betrayed by one of the High Evolutionary's Ani-Men?
Possibly.

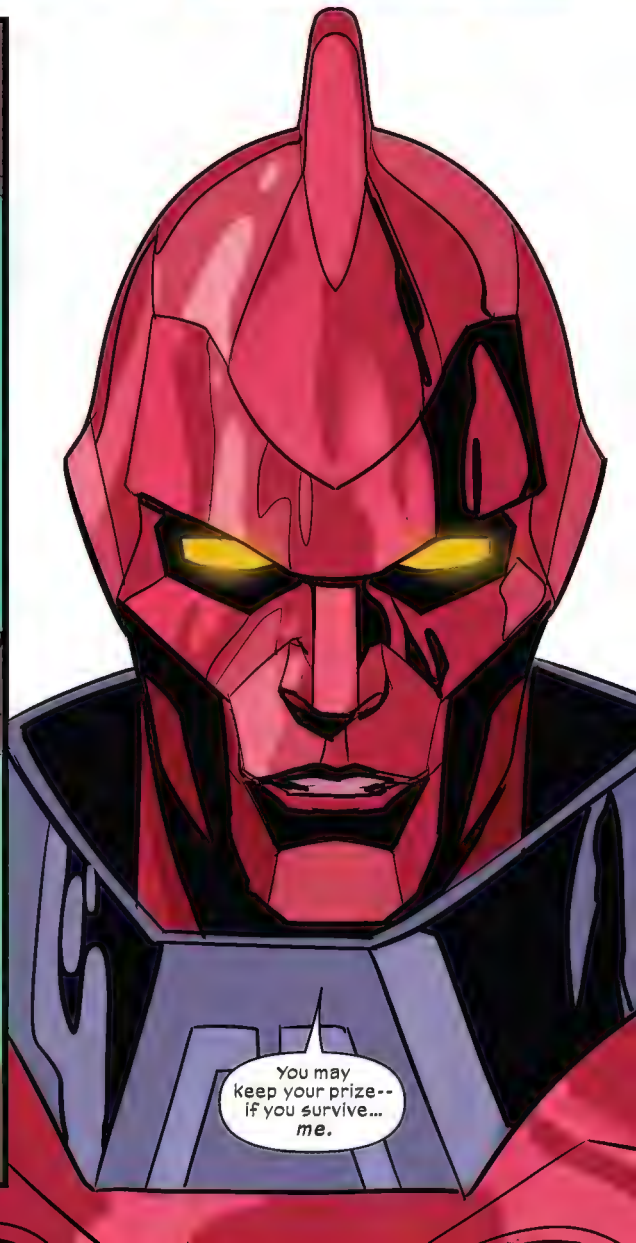
Synch and Talon. Did you think you could escape my notice?
You remember my daughter Luminous.
I see you hold my bio-hacking device. Have you reconsidered my gift to mutantdom? I hear rumors that you waited too long and have lost your dominance of Earth.

That was never what we wanted.
But it was freely offered once, and we have great need of it.
Consider it payment for Synch's blood.
I already paid for that by letting humanity live.
How has that path treated mutantdom?
You really want to fight us?
I haven't decided yet.
Let me face them both. To the death. If they defeat me, they can have their bauble.
Fine.
Karma's a bitch.

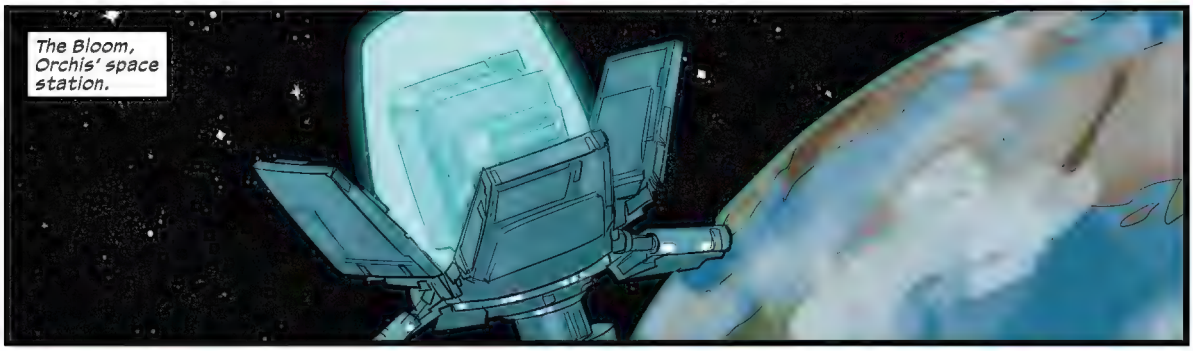
AAAH!
S-stop it-- get out of my head. F-Father, stop!

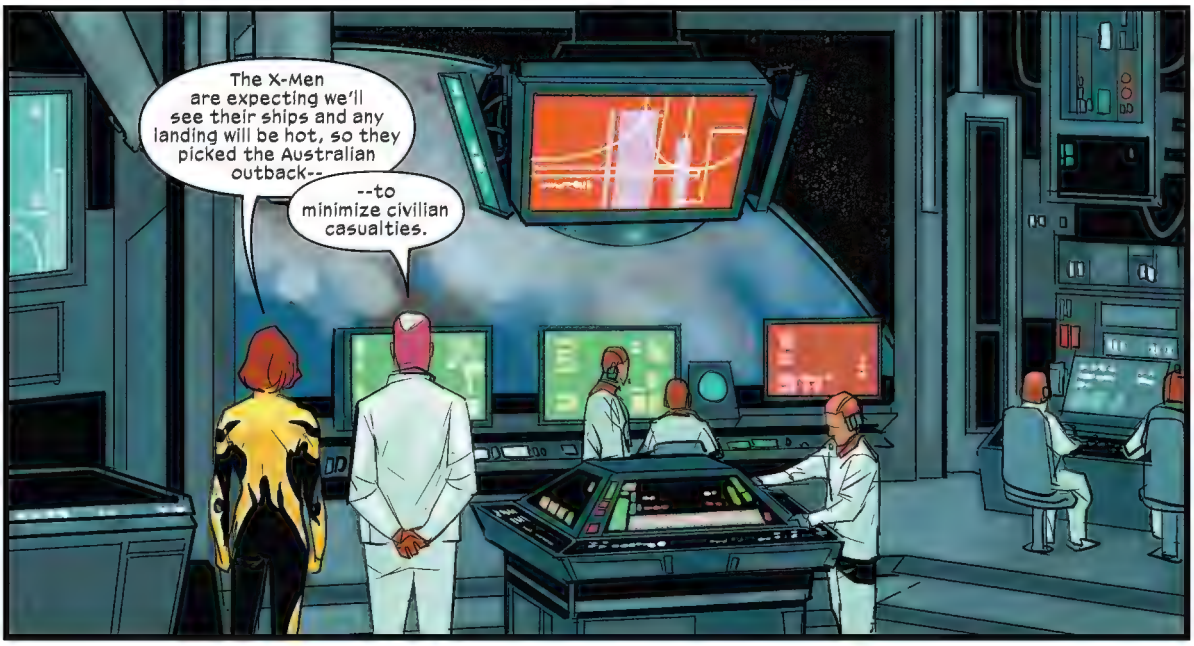
I hate using Karma's power.
It usually shortens my "claw time."


I n-need help.
How disappointing.
However, I did not agree to the terms that Luminous set forth.


You may keep your prize-- if you survive... me.

Once more, darlin'?
On Counter-Earth, which way does the Coriolis effect go?
Do I beat him clockwise or counter-clockwise?
As was often the case for Synch and Talon...it was a short fight.
YEAARGH!


The Bloom, Orchis' space station.


The X-Men are expecting we'll see their ships and any landing will be hot, so they picked the Australian outback--
--to minimize civilian casualties.

How chivalrous.
When Mars attacks Earth, we'll spring a trap that will end this war once and for all. Every single Sentinel will be waiting for them.

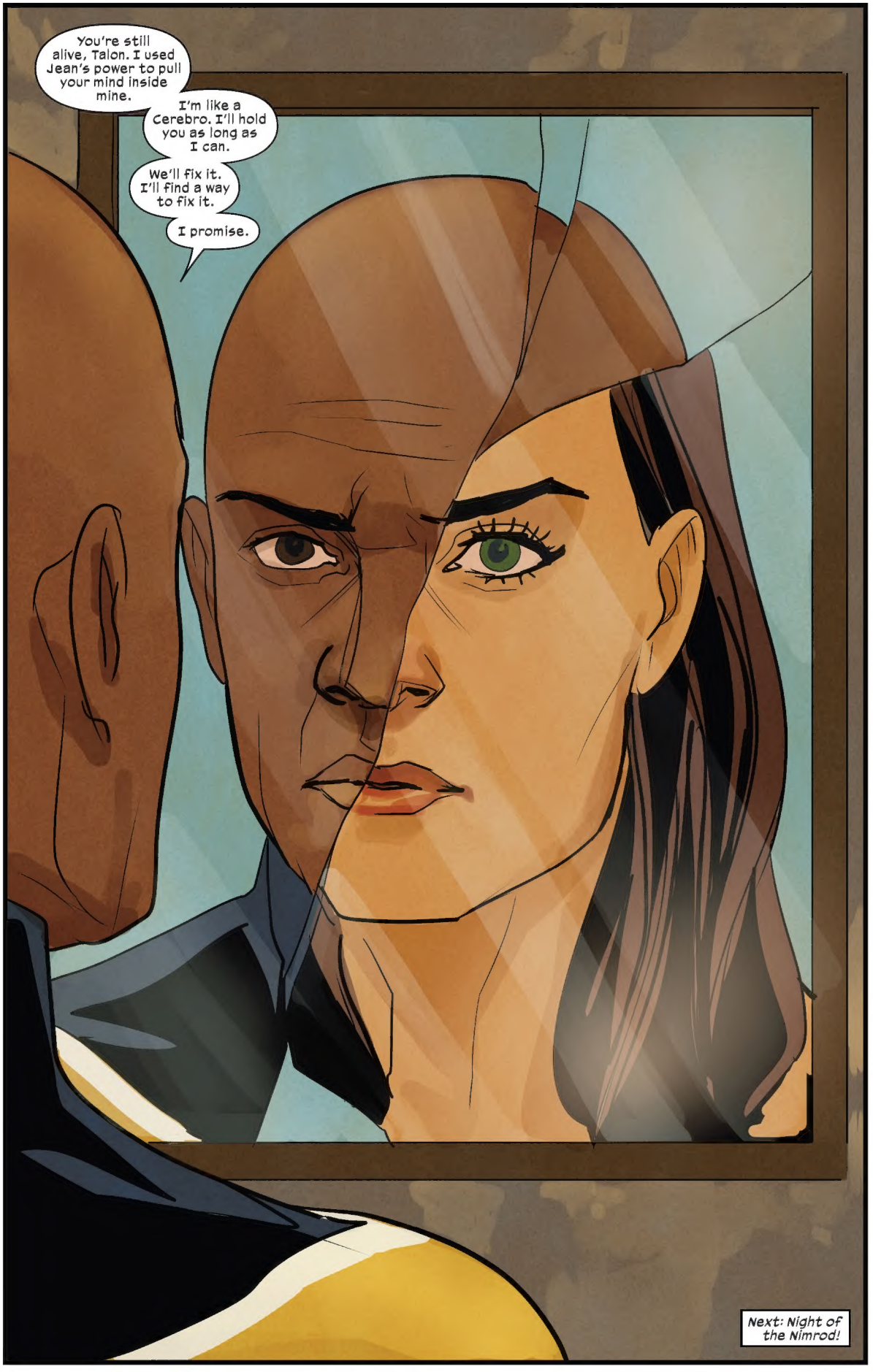
Some of them are good people--who can be saved.

You're special, Firestar.
Not them.

Stark.
I got it.
...
We got it.
That's amazing! Congrats.
I'll start to load up our fix.
Hey, bud. You okay?
We'll live.
Everett, why can't I remember how we escaped Counter-Earth?
You were *badly hurt* on the way to the shuttle.
Once again, almost killed and captured covering my escape.
Hey, Synch--

--who you talking to?
It's...
...been a long couple of days.
Everett?
I can explain.
Oh my god.

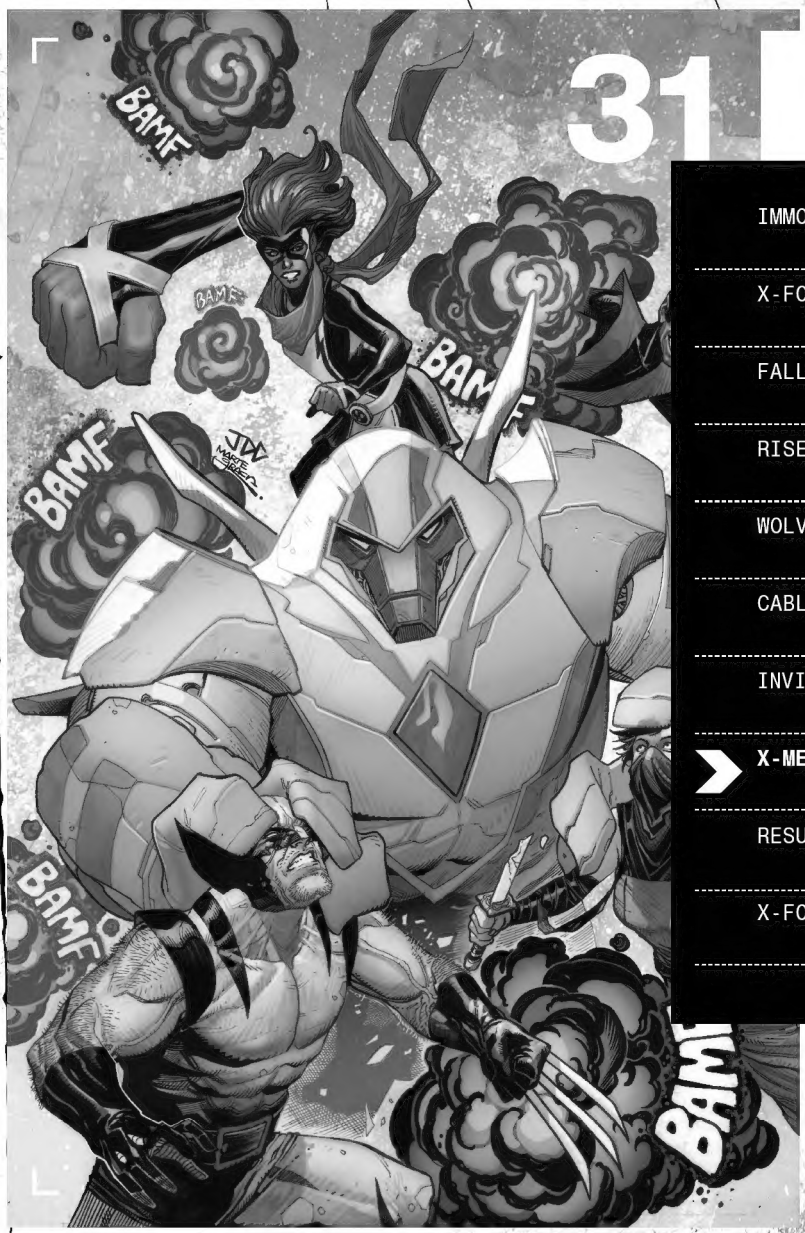
It was a short fight. And the lovers *lost*.
Behold, Synch.
+Gasp!+
AAAEEH!
NO!
NOW you've paid for the fire you've stolen.
Begone, Synch of Krakoa...
...we will meet again at a time of my choosing.


You're still alive, Talon. I used Jean's power to pull your mind inside mine.
I'm like a Cerebro. I'll hold you as long as I can.
We'll fix it. I'll find a way to fix it.
I promise.
Next: Night of the Nimrod!

KRAKOA is for all MUTANTS

[fall__of]
[_____X]

FOLLOW THE FALL:



WEIRD WORLD

- IMMORTAL X-MEN #18
- X-FORCE #47
- FALL OF THE HOUSE OF X #1
- RISE OF THE POWERS OF X #1
- WOLVERINE #41
- CABLE #1
- INVINCIBLE IRON MAN #14
- **X-MEN #30**
- RESURRECTION OF MAGNETO #1
- X-FORCE #48

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[koa_[0.0]…]

[00_x-men__0.30]

KAMIC RIDER
MARIKA